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OCI-1179/64
12 March 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Current Intelligence

SUBJECT : Further Comments on Mission S104E, Flown
6 March 1964 and Mission 6071, Flown 30
December 1963

1. Further field evaluation of Mission S104E reveals that eleven additional Laotian airfields were covered, six belonging to FAR forces and five in areas of Pathet Lao control. No aircraft were seen at any of the fields. Additional road coverage in Laos was confined to twelve bridges on various routes, three of which were in excess of 350 feet in length.

2. In North Vietnam, six additional complexes were covered in the Vinh Son area northeast of Vinh and south of Route 7. These included four barracks areas, one ammunition depot and one supply depot. In conjunction with previous coverage of this area, a total of at least eight complexes has been disclosed indicating the presence of a major PAVN unit. This area is thought to be the home of the 324th Division/Brigade. Personnel of this unit, which is thought to have been brigaded for purposes of guerrilla warfare, have been captured in South Vietnam, and elements have been employed in Laos on road construction along Routes 7 and 12.

3. Coverage of roads in North Vietnam included three bridges on Routes 8 and 12, and a ferry crossing on Route 7, with a ferry and barge in view. In addition three areas, one each on Routes 8, 12 and 7, are highlighted because of their particular vulnerability to interdiction.

4. NPIC's continuing analysis of Mission 6071, flown on 30 December 1963, has revealed extensive road bed improvement and the laying of ties on the abandoned rail line between Vinh and Dong Hoi. Most of the major bridges are still out, but one major bridge is under construction. A probable work train was seen moving below where Route 12 meets the rail line. Hanoi is

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apparently placing high priority on this reconstruction project. However, ORR's best estimate for a date of completion is early 1965. The extension of this line south to Dong Hoi will greatly facilitate Hanoi's logistic support of forces in southern Laos and South Vietnam. A study of this line and other major roads in North Vietnam is presently under way by ORR. (See CIB Note, 12 March 1963) (~~SECRET~~/NO FOREIGN DISSEM/ [REDACTED])

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